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1 Caridad M. Everhart	USPTO Re: 09/675,220	703-746-4107	

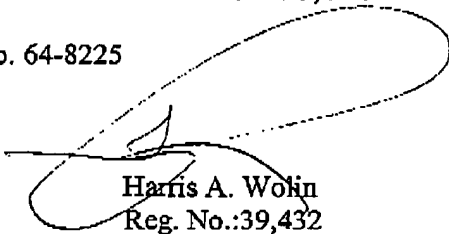
Date	Our Reference Number
<b>August 22, 2003</b>	<b>3049/FLK(032878-87728)</b>
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**Total number of pages, including cover letter: 9**  
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Comments

**\*\* EXPEDITED PROCEDURE \*\*****Enclosed:**

- 2 pages – Information Disclosure Statement dated June 3, 2003
- 1 page – PTO Form 1449
- 4 pages- Japanese Reference no. 64-8225
- 1 page – English abstract

  
Harris A. Wolin  
Reg. No.:39,432
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By   
Eric L. Maldonado

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Attorney Docket No. 3094/FLK (032878-87728)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor: M. NAKANO  
Serial No.: 09/675,220  
Filed: September 29, 2000  
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLING...  
Examiner: Caridad M. Everhart  
Art Unit: 2825

June 3, 2003

Director of the U.S. Patent and  
Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

S I R:

In order to comply with discretionary rules 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of documents listed thereon. These documents contain information in which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

As this statement is being filed prior to issuance of a first Office Action, no fee is due.

As this document is written in a language other than English, an English Language abstract is annexed thereto explaining its relevancy in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3).

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 §CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is

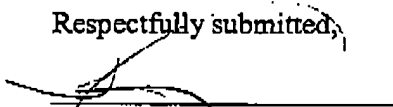
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intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

**Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.**

Respectfully submitted,

  
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1449/PTO	U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Application No. : 09/675,220
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>		Filing Date : September 29, 2000
<u>Sheet 1 of 1</u>		First Named Inventor: M. NAKANO
		Group Art Unit : 2825
		Examiner Name : C.M. EVERHART
		Attorney Docket No. : 3094/FLK

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document	Kind Code if known <sup>2</sup>	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear

**FOREIGN DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document Office <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	Country	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YY/Y	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		64-8225	JP	DAIDO STEEL CO LTD	01/12/1989	

**Other Prior Art-Non Patent Literature Documents**

Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, country, where published, source.	Applicant check her if English language translation attached
Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

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<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designated number. <sup>2</sup>For patents of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.1 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

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